

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)
Charles R. SLATER)
Rule 53(b) Divisional of) Parent Information:
Serial No.: 08/354,992) Group Art Unit: 3309
Filed: October 23, 1998) Examiner: M. Peffley
For: BIPOLAR ENDOSCOPIC SURGICAL)
SCISSOR BLADES AND INSTRUMENT)
INCORPORATING THE SAME)

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Prior to the examination of the above application, please amend this application by cancelling claims 1-23 and 30-39, and adding new claims 40-56 as follows:

-- 40. An endoscopic scissor blade according to claim 24, wherein said outer metal conductive layer is for connection to a voltage source to supply cautery current through the outer metal conductive layer.

41. An endoscopic scissor blade according to claim 25, wherein said mounting means includes a mounting hole for receiving a mounting screw.

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42. An endoscopic scissor blade according to claim 26, wherein said intermediate electrically insulative layer includes flanges separating the inner metal shearing surface and the outer metal conductive layer.

43. An endoscopic scissor blade according to claim 26, wherein said intermediate electrically insulative layer is comprised of a ceramic with a coating of nickel and aluminum.

44. An endoscopic scissor blade according to claim 24, wherein the outer metal conductive layer is comprised of one of the group consisting of bronze, copper, gold, stainless steel, and superalloy.

45. An endoscopic scissor blade according to claim 27, wherein said outer metal conductive layer includes a coating of nickel and aluminum.

46. An endoscopic scissor blade according to claim 24, wherein said inner metal shearing surface, intermediate electrically insulative layer, and outer metal conductive layer are curved.

47. An endoscopic scissor blade according to claim 28, wherein said intermediate electrically insulative layer is curved.

48. An endoscopic scissor blade according to claim 24, wherein said coupling means includes a proximal lug for coupling said source of voltage to said outer metal conductive layer.

49. An endoscopic scissor blade for use with a second blade for cutting and coagulating tissue, the endoscopic scissor blade comprising:

a first member having a first shearing surface for facing a second shearing surface of the second blade;

an electrically insulative member adjacent said first member; and

a conductive member adjacent said electrically insulative member and electrically insulated from said first member by said electrically insulative member, said conductive member for receiving a cautery current from a voltage source.

50. An endoscopic scissor blade according to claim 49, wherein said first member supports said electrically insulative member and said conductive member.

51. An endoscopic scissor blade according to claim 49, wherein said electrically insulative member supports said first member and said conductive member.

52. An endoscopic scissor blade according to claim 49, wherein said conductive member supports said first member and said electrically insulative member.

53. An endoscopic scissor blade according to claim 49, wherein said first member is a layer.

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54. An endoscopic scissor blade according to claim 49, wherein said electrically insulative member is a layer.

55. An endoscopic scissor blade according to claim 49, wherein said conductive member is a layer.

56. An endoscopic scissor blade according to claim 49, wherein each of said first member, said electrically insulative member, and said conductive member is a layer. --

REMARKS

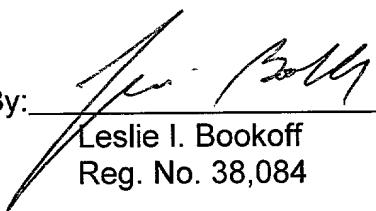
Claims 1-23 and 30-39 were cancelled by the filing of this divisional application. Claims 24-29 and newly added claims 40-56 are pending.

If there are any other fees due in connection with the filing of this preliminary amendment, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916. If a fee is required for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 not accounted for above, such an extension is requested and the fee should also be charged to our Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,
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By:


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Dated: October 23, 1998